



Hazardous Waste in Missouri

Hazardous Waste Program fact sheet

7/2003

What is hazardous waste?

Hazardous waste is any solid waste that is ignitable, corrosive, reactive, toxic or is listed as a hazardous waste in state or federal regulations. If not handled properly, hazardous wastes can pose a threat to human health and the environment by contaminating the air, soil, ground water, surface water and the food chain.

What are some examples of hazardous waste?

Hazardous wastes can be liquids, sludges, solids or gases. They can be wastes from manufacturing processes or discarded commercial products. Some examples include spent solvents, electroplating chemicals, petroleum refining sludges, banned pesticides and chemical products that can no longer be used.

What businesses generate hazardous waste?

Nearly all manufacturing, repair and cleaning businesses generate some form of hazardous waste. This includes chemical manufacturers, oil refiners, steel manufacturers, automobile, appliance and electronics factories, lumber treating facilities, auto body shops, service stations, dry cleaners and many others.

What happens to hazardous wastes in Missouri?

The Missouri Hazardous Waste Management Law establishes a "cradle-to-grave" system for proper handling of hazardous waste from generation to recycling, energy recovery, treatment or final disposal. The law encourages businesses to reduce and recycle hazardous waste as much as possible.

Many generators recycle or treat their hazardous waste on site. Some burn their hazardous waste for energy recovery. Most generators in Missouri rely on commercial treatment, storage and disposal businesses to handle their hazardous waste.

Storage

Generators can store their own hazardous wastes for up to 90 days without obtaining a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. Those who generate small amounts can store it for longer periods. Commercial facilities that have authorization from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources may receive hazardous wastes from generators and store it in tanks and containers. These facilities collect a sufficient quantity of a particular waste to make its treatment or disposal economically feasible.



Treatment

Treatment facilities use various processes to alter the character or composition of hazardous waste to make it less hazardous or non-hazardous. Some examples of treatment include incineration, elementary neutralization, bioremediation and blending. With a few exceptions, treatment of hazardous waste requires a permit.

Disposal

Land disposal is the least desirable method of dealing with hazardous waste. Prior to land disposal, hazardous wastes must be treated to be made less toxic.

In Missouri, there is only one active hazardous waste landfill. This landfill receives only hazardous waste generated on-site by the manufacturer. Missouri's other hazardous waste landfills are closed and can no longer accept hazardous waste. The department continues to monitor the groundwater around all hazardous waste landfills.

Resource Recovery

Some processes recover usable product from hazardous waste. Some examples include metals recovery, solvent distillation and energy recovery. Using waste for energy saves fossil fuel and reduces pollution.

Transportation

Transporters carry hazardous waste from generators to treatment, storage, disposal, or resource recovery facilities. Transporters can store hazardous waste for up to 10 days at a transfer station. A tracking document called the *Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest* must accompany all shipments. Only a licensed hazardous waste transporter may ship regulated quantities of hazardous waste in Missouri.

Who needs a hazardous waste management facility permit?

Entities that treat or dispose of hazardous waste must obtain a permit. Permits may also be required for hazardous waste storage. Resource recovery processes do not require a hazardous waste permit. In Missouri, facilities that recover usable product from hazardous waste must receive resource recovery certification.

Who is not required to get a hazardous waste management permit?

- Households.
- Farmers who properly dispose of agricultural chemicals used in farming.
- Facilities that treat and recycle hazardous waste in a totally enclosed system or discharge hazardous waste to a public treatment plant with the permission of the operator.
- Persons cleaning up a hazardous waste spill or discharge.
- Transporters storing manifested shipments of hazardous waste less than 10 days.
- Businesses that generate "small quantities" as defined by law.
- Businesses that generate hazardous waste and store their hazardous waste for less than 90 days. Businesses that generate small quantities may store their hazardous waste for longer periods of time without a permit. For more information, see the fact sheet *Does Your Business Generate Hazardous Waste?* (pub117).

Where can I view the state and federal hazardous waste laws?

The Missouri State Library, U.S. Depository Libraries, all Department of Natural Resources' regional offices, the central office in Jefferson City, and most public libraries have copies of the state and federal hazardous waste laws. Anyone may purchase a copy of the Missouri Hazardous Waste Management Law and regulations from the department.

For More Information

This fact sheet has been prepared to help introduce concerned citizens in Missouri to some important aspects of hazardous waste law. Businesses that generate hazardous waste may want to obtain the technical bulletin *Does Your Business Generate Hazardous Waste?* (pub 117) from the department.

For further information call or write
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